

SPECIAL COVID INSTRUCTIONS FOR JURORS

Starting again in January, 2022, the Court has now resumed criminal jury trials.

The previous suspension of jury trials was needed to protect the health of Court staff, patrons, and jurors, as well as to prevent public spread of the virus. It also gave the Court the opportunity to redesign a socially-distanced jury process with the input of public health officials and experts. Jury trials are critical to the administration of justice and it is time to re-start them with appropriate safeguards, which shall be described below.

Your participation in the jury process is important and we thank you for doing your part to help.

NEW COVID/OMICRON/DELTA SAFEGUARDS

The Court has instituted balanced safety precautions to protect juror safety and public health, which take into account the availability of vaccines in the community.

New Jury processes include:

1. Temperatures are taken at the front entry and jurors must answer a questionnaire regarding potential Covid-19 & any variant symptoms or health risks.

If you have a fever or show flu-like or covid-like symptoms, we ask that you notify the Court immediately and do not attempt to enter the building. If you are sick, the judge can excuse you from jury duty this time and allow you to appear again when you are well.

2. The Court may stagger juror appearance times. Come to Court when you are scheduled to arrive at Court and await further instructions.

3. Room capacity is limited. In the unlikely instance there are too many jurors in the building, the Court may ask you to wait in your vehicle until called inside, or it may give you an appointment to come back at a later time. The Court will give you clear instructions in such an event, and you must follow those instructions if asked to do so.

4. Jury selection may occur in a large waiting area within the Courthouse, and your seats may be spaced apart from other jurors. The general public will not be permitted in this area.

5. Some of the juror questioning may take place using cameras and audio equipment from across the building in order to avoid having too many people in the courtroom. This is a new process and there may be technical difficulties to work out at times. The Court thanks you for your patience and understanding.
6. Placement of chairs may be arranged to prevent “chokepoints,” in other words to allow jurors to pass one another without violating social distancing. **Please do not move the chairs.**
7. Plexiglas has been strategically placed around the courtrooms as an additional safeguard.
8. Face coverings shall be required for all jurors. Jurors may submit special requests to wear face-shields.
9. Employees and attorneys will wear masks or face-shields, and witnesses will wear face-shields while testifying.
10. Hand sanitizer is available throughout the building.
11. Food and coffee may be limited. Please eat breakfast prior to jury service. Jurors will be released to eat lunch on their own (unless sequestered and you are required to remain at the Court). Prepare to eat and come back after lunch.

For more information see our Special Covid-19 Frequently Asked Questions (SCFAQ) and other details on our website at:

<https://www.tulalipribalcourt-nsn.gov/GeneralCourtInfo/JuryDuty>

SPECIAL COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Are jury trials still necessary?

- Yes. They are a key component of our justice system. They are critical to the fair administration of justice and are constitutionally guaranteed in criminal matters.

2. Will jury duty be in-person?

- Yes. As of January, 2022, all jury duty is in-person. It is important that jury duty be held in-person to protect the constitutional rights of the accused, assure access to attorney presentations, evidence, exhibits, and to encourage

and facilitate open, honest, and confidential juror discussion during deliberations.

3. What if I am sick or in a high risk category? Can I be excused or rescheduled for jury duty?

- Yes. You may follow the instructions on your juror summons to request a deferral of your jury service to a later date if you are: (1) 65 years of age or older, or (2) regardless of age, you have underlying medical conditions which place you at increased risk, such as chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immune disorders, obesity, diabetes, pregnancy, or chronic kidney or liver disease, or (3) if you are sick or have recently tested positive for Covid-19.

4. Will the courthouse be clean?

- Yes. The courthouse and jury deliberation rooms are cleaned by the building maintenance crew.

5. Will the courthouse practice social distancing?

- Yes. Jurors may be spaced apart during selection as much as possible, chokepoints and room capacity may be reduced, and the general public will be excluded from selection.

6. Will I have to bring my own mask or gloves?

- Yes. Because we have a limited supply of personal protective equipment (PPE), the Court asks jurors to bring their own face coverings. If you do not have a mask, then the Court may be able provide you with one upon request. You are not required to bring gloves, and may be provided nitrile gloves for handling exhibits in the event they are requested. However, you may also bring your own gloves if you wish.

7. Will I be asked to show proof of vaccination to be on a jury?

- Yes, you must provide proof that you have been vaccinated to serve on the jury (see next question below regarding proof of vaccine record).

8. What proof of vaccination must I show to remove my mask?

- You must show your vaccine card indicating you have received both doses of the vaccine, or additionally you may show electronic proof of your vaccination

record from any e-database such as the WA State MYIR app:

<https://wa.myir.net/rorl?next=/>

9. Will the courthouse have hand sanitizer dispensers and hand washing areas?

- Yes. Hand sanitizers are available throughout the building and hand washing areas are available in the bathrooms.

10. What if I feel unsafe or sick after reporting to jury duty?

- Contact the Court Clerk Office Manager, Wendy Church at the following phone number immediately at 360 / 716-4770.

11. What if I feel sick the day of jury duty? Should I report or stay home?

- If you feel sick **DO NOT** come to jury selection. Stay home and contact the Court Clerk Office Manager immediately. Your jury service will be deferred to a later date.